

Room 2C

Hello,

My name is Joe Adamaitis I am a lifetime resident of CT and a recent graduate from Johnson & Wales University in Providence RI.

I would like to share with you my experience of racial profiling. About a year ago I decided that I would like to grow a garden on one of the plots of land that my father owns. He gave me the address to the plot and I went and checked it out to see if I could grow plants on it, and I could although I would need to cut down some trees.

The next day I ask my friend Tom if he wants to give me a hand with cutting down trees on my fathers property he agrees; I put a chainsaw and other equipment into the trunk of my car and off we go. When we reached our destination I pulled my car over but didn't pull up the emergency break yet, I then started looking at what trees we would need to cut down. Before we could even decide what trees we needed I saw a man running up to my driver side window yelling and screaming at me to "get the F\*\*k out of the car now" and he had some object in his hand. I didn't know if he was trying to rob me or what he identified himself as an officer and the object in his hand was a badge he was knocking violently on my window telling me to get out of the car, and in a state of shock I complied.

As I started stepping out of the car, the car began to roll backwards he then yelled at me to put the emergency break on and I did. Now that I am out of the car I realized that there was another officer on the passenger side who pulled my friend out of the car too. Then they began to frisk us in the most demoralizing and violent manner, he put his hand on my private parts (front and rear) to "check for drugs". They kept on asking us what we were doing here and if we had any drugs in the car I told them "NO I am here to cut down trees my father owns this property". They didn't believe me, they then began to search my car (I am pretty sure this was illegal as they had no probable cause). There are now about 4 or 5 cops surrounding my car viciously searching me, my friend, and my car.

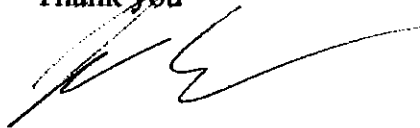
One cop then took me in the back of his car and kept asking me what I was doing here and I kept repeating to him the same story over and over I am here to grow a garden so I need to cut down trees on my father's property. He still didn't believe me and asked me for my fathers number I gave it to him and he called my dad to confirm if this was true and it was. I then began to tell him

what he was doing to me and my friend was illegal and he told me "I don't know what you study in school lawyer boy but we did not do anything illegal" and I repeated to him "yes you did". He then threatened to tow my car so I shut my mouth.

They then made us sit on the curb as they scratches their heads in a daze because they thought we were clearly there to buy drugs. They then asked to look in my trunk and I knew I had nothing to hide so I let them and said all your going to find is a chainsaw. They opened the trunk saw the chainsaw and 4 of the 5 cops got in their cars and left. The last cop that stayed told us we clearly did not know what area of the city we were in and that there are gangs everywhere here. He then told us we were free to go and he left, none of them even said they were sorry for their own mistakes.

Now since me and my friend Tom were in a rough part of town and we look like two white kids from the suburbs the cops clearly profiled us as drug users. I feel the amendment to SB 1230 will prevent incidents like this happening. I felt violated and shocked after what those cops did to me and my friend it was not right. Cops would think twice about profiling someone and harassing them like they harassed me and Tom if this bill is passed and they are required to give their information to people no matter what.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'J' or 'L' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

From: Beacon Falls

Incident: Waterbury